

Capital Circus

By TED LEWIS

Washington, Oct. 22.—The Kennedy Administration's fringe of Ivy League intellectuals has been kicking around the problem of how a negotiated settlement on Berlin could be arrived at without it being branded appeasement.

For this reason a proposal by Assistant Secretary of State Harlan Cleveland that the American people should revise their views on cold war developments deserves attention, for it reflects the thinking of those concerned with the problem.

Cleveland is the first Administration official to discuss the subject publicly. The significance of his address at Binghamton, N.Y., last Friday is now being pointed up here by those who say it accurately reflects the Administration's viewpoint.

He complains that "world affairs generally are covered like a World Series—with the same certainty that at the end of the day, even if it takes extra innings, one side must 'win' and the other must 'lose'."

He thinks that as a result of this "curious system of scoring" the impression is that we're losing unless we bat 1,000% in any given crisis.

"Thus," Cleveland said, "if the U.S. is forced to yield 10% to get 90% of what it wants in any given encounter, the chances are that this will be reported as 'another Communist gain'—and 'another Western reverse.'"

He is very unhappy about the public attitude, particularly as it helps nurture a phony but persistent, pervasive myth in this country that the story of the cold war is the story of one long unbroken retreat by the West before the juggernaut of international Communism.

Unfortunately Cleveland, while claiming that we now have a "truly tough foreign policy" that should have public support even when we give a little in a crisis settlement, does not come up with answers to obvious questions.

We Demanded and Then Retreated

Why, for example, shouldn't there be a general belief that we knuckled down to the Communists in Laos? Didn't the Administration demand an end to Red infiltration and then retreat?

Why can't we bat 1,000% in the Berlin crisis? We have spelled out our demands and kept repeating that they are all based on principles we are ready to fight for.

While the attention of government leaders and most of the public in recent days has been split between Moscow, Berlin and South Viet Nam, still another ugly situation has been unfolding under the nose of Washington. It will get worse before it gets better.

This is the affair of the Dominican Republic. There is every indication that if the U. S. doesn't work this one out carefully, another Latin American nation will go down the Communist drain with the cheerful help of Fidel Castro.

There is evidence that the Reds had a hand in the assassination of dictator Trujillo last May, and certainly there is evidence that rioting in Ciudad Trujillo is more than mere demonstration of students protesting the appointment of a new rector for Santa Domingo University.

Reports of Meddling in Dominican Affairs

Private intelligence sources have reported that the Reds have a revolutionary coalition in the Dominican Republic has been working at the government with a "mounting wave of social and political violence." These reports have reached the ears of the government and have been taken along with the normal flow of information.

There are strong rumors—the same sort of rumors that were spread in Guatemala before the revolution—that the Reds are working in private American



Gen. Rafael Trujillo Jr.
Will he skip to exile?

been meddling in Dominican affairs. If these reports are correct, the chances for a happy solution so far as this country is concerned are no better than they have developed in the case of Cuba.

A troublesome factor is that the Dominicans have not developed any strong anti-Communist leadership. And nobody seems to know which direction Gen. Rafael Trujillo Jr., son of the murdered dictator, will take. He has declared that he will remain in the country, yet there is belief that he will flee to luxurious exile before spring.

There Is Fear of Chaos and a Vacuum

Reports persist that the officially outlawed Dominican Popular Movement, the pro-Communist Party, is active, growing and receiving continuing aid from Cuba. Just now the Dominican Communists are working hand-in-glove with fairly respectable non-Communist revolutionary forces, which makes for strength, and more confusion to the outside.

What the U.S. official policy is toward the Dominican situation at the moment is difficult to tell. Theoretically, this government is committed to the idea that Latin nations, as all other countries, must have the right of self-determination.

This is all well and good, but it is reasonably impossible to support a people without leadership. If Trujillo Jr. is going to skedaddle along with his ranking officers, then this is certain to leave chaos and a vacuum into which the Castro-directed Communies are ready to step.

It could come quicker than you think.

In fairness to Darryl Zanuck, the movie producer, and Gen. Lauris Norstad, Allied Supreme Commander in Europe, we were in error in reporting in Cap Circus last week that they were personal friends. We are now informed that they have met only occasionally.

We bring this up because the record should show that Norstad's original decision to send 700 American soldiers to help Zanuck make a movie on the coast of France was in no part due to a personal friendship. (The contingent has now been cut to 250, on orders of the Pentagon.)